

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 02029 041335Z

46

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 /042 W

----- 123465

O R 041255Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2971

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 2029

ROME FOR INS FALCHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CVIS

SUBJECT: ASSYRIAN AND ARMENIAN REFUGEES

REF: ATHENS 1924, ROME 3491, GENEVA 1569

1. AS CAN BE SEEN FROM CONTENTS REFTELS ALL PARTIES INVOLVED IN PLANNING FOR AN HENDLING THE PROCESSING OF SUBJECT REFUGEES ARE EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT DELAY FACTOR BUILT IN TO NORMAL VISAS EAGLE PROCEDURE. UNHCR PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS SINCE, AS SOON AS REFUGEES ARRIVE GREECE, EACH ONE WILL COST THEM EIGHT DOLLARS PER DAY FOR ROOM AND BOARD, AND MORE THAN THAT AFTER APRIL 15. APPENDIX A, 22 CFR 41/42.90, NOT 7.2, AUTHORIZES POSTS TO REQUEST RESPONSE TO VISAS EAGLE MESSAGES IN LESS THAN FIFTEEN WORKING DAYS, IF NEEDED IN LESS TIME THAN THAT. FOR BOTH FINANCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS, WE FEEL THAT THE CASE OF THESE UNFORTUNATE REFUGEES IS ONE WHEREIN EXPEDITIOUS RATHER THAN ROUTINE HANDLING OF VISAS EAGLE MESSAGES IS WARRANTED. GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKELY ALSO BE APPRECIATIVE OF ANY ACTIONS WE TAKE TO CUT DOWN ON AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME WHICH EACH OF THIS VERY LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES WILL NEED TO SPEND IN GREECE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ATHENS 02029 041335Z

EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTS AND URGES THAT DEPARTMENT IN CONCERT

WITH INS CENTRAL OFFICE AUTHORIZE AFFECTED POSTS (SO FAR ONLY BEIRUT AND ATHENS) TO USE SOME SUCH INDICATOR AS VISAS EABLE EXPEDITE FOR CLEARANCE OF SUBJECT REFUGEES, WITH DEPARTMENT TO REPLY TO ALL SUCH MESSAGES AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT.

2. NECESSARY CLEARANCES WITH OTHER FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS ARE SIMILAR PROBLEM, AND SPEEDY REPLIES ARE NEEDED TO VISAS ALPHA MESSAGES FOR SAME REASONS AS STATED IN PRECEDING PARAGRAPH. SO FAR, IT APPEARS THAT SUBJECT REFUGEES' PLACES OF FORMER RESIDENCE ARE LARGELY CONFINED TO THE USSR (ARMENIANS), IRAQ AND SYRIA (ASSYRIANS), THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT (COPTIC CHRISTIANS), AND LEBANON. THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE NO PROBLEM REGARDING VISAS ALPHA MESSAGES SENT TO EGYPT, IRAQ, OR LEBANON, SINCE EXAMINATION OF APPENDIX E LEADS TO CONCLUSION THAT POSTS IN THESE COUNTRIES ARE ABLE TO MAKE ONLY A FILE CHECK, WHICH TAKES LITTLE TIME, AND WOULD RESULT IN VISAS DELTA REPLY OR THE TRANSMISSION OF ANY DEROGATORY INFO ON FILE. HOWEVER, APPENDIX E INDICATES THAT MORE EXTENSIVE CHECKS ARE POSSIBLE IN THE USSR AND SYRIA, WHICH, IN ROUTINE HANDLING OF IMMIGRANT VISAS CASES, MEANS POST HANDLING APPLICATION WOULD NEED VISAS ELEKTRA IN ORDER TO CONSIDER APPLICANT AS CLEARED. INASMUCH AS WAITING FOR AN ELEKTRA-TYPE RESPONSE WOULD NEGATE ANY TIME SAVED BY EXPEDITING VISAS EAGLE, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT EMBASSIES BEIRUT AND ATHENS AND INS ATTACHE ATHENS BE AUTHORIZED BY DEPARTMENT AND INS CENTRAL OFFICE TO ASK FOR AND ACCEPT AS SUFFICIENT A DELTA REPLY FOR CLEARANCES OF ALL SUBJECT REFUGEES.

3. WITH REGARD TO DOCUMENTS NORMALLY REQUIRED OF IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANTS, EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT, SINCE SUBJECT REFUGEE NON-PREFERENCE IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANTS WOULD NORMALLY BE CONDITIONAL ENTRANTS EXCEPT FOR PRESSURE ON SEVENTH PREFERENCE NUMBERS, SAME PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS WILL APPLY AS ARE USED BY INS OFFICER IN PROCESSING CONDITIONAL ENTRANTS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONFIRMATION OF PRECEDING SENTENCE, AS THIS POINT IS NOT SPECIFICALLY COVERED IN DEPARTMENT'S A-6539 OF OCTOBER 20, 1975.
KUBISCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS02029
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760082-1129
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760397/aaaadhcz.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ATHENS 1924, 76 ROME 3491, 76 GENEVA 1569
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSYRIAN AND ARMENIAN REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, CVIS, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006